

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3164

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CI, US

SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT ON CHILE

REF: STATE 101698

1. IN MAY 3 EDITORIAL SANTIAGO'S "EL MERCURIO" COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PRES FORD'S REMARKS ABOUT CHILE ON OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OF NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TRUCCO. EDITORIAL BEGAN WITH REPETITION OF PREVIOUSLY USED DISTORTION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT LETTER TO FONMIN CARVAJAL ("LEADERS OF CHILE, BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, CAN UNDERSTAND TRAGEDY OF INDOCHINA AND ITS IMPORTANCE"); THIS LANGUAGE, IT SAID, CONSTITUTED IMPLICIT RECOGNITION THAT CRISIS IN CHILE WAS PRODUCED BY MARXISM, AND THAT MILITARY TAKEOVER WAS INEVITABLE RESULT.

2. EDITORIAL QUOTED PRESIDENT'S WORDS OF PRAISE FOR CHILE'S ECONOMIC EFFORT. NOTED DESIRE OF SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO IMPOSE ON CHILE "POLITICAL MODEL THEY DESIRE" BY MEANS OF PARIS CLUB NEGOTIATIONS, WHEREAS U.S. SHOWED DESIRE "TO COLLABORATE WITH REPUBLIC WHOSE AIM IS TO DESIGN A MODERN, JUST, AND EFFICIENT SOCIETY." AMERICANS RECOGNIZE THAT CHILEANS ARE STRIVING FOR A GRADUAL RETURN TO NORMALITY. NEVERTHELESS, CHILEAN IMAGE IS "PERMANENTLY DISFIGURED" BY ELEMENTS IN U.S. WHO WANT TO APPLY ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS AGAINST CHILE, A SMALL COUNTRY WHICH

INFLICTED A MAJOR DEFEAT ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

3. EDITORIAL RECALLED CRITICISM OF DETENTE CURRENT HERE BY NOT-
ING LATTER HAS NOT BEEN ADVANTAGEOUS FOR CHILE, AND THAT IF
IT PROSPERS IN FUTURE, CHILE "WOULD HAVE RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT
ADVANTAGES OF DETENTE WOULD NOT, AS IS CASE UNTIL NOW, BE
OF UNILATERAL CHARACTER." EDITORIAL ENDED ON CRYPTIC NOTE
THAT IF THIS SHOULD NOT BE THE CASE, "IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE
SHOULD OTHER ASPIRATIONS ARISE IN CHILEAN FOREIGN
POLICY."
POPPER

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